Photo Identity Cards

2045 SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) the steps being taken by the Election Commission of India to complete issuance of the Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPIC), and

(b) the number of voters not issued EPIC so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R BHARDWAJ): (a) The Election Commission of India has informed that it has outlined steps to complete issue of Elector's Photo Identity Cards in two phases In the first phase, field campaigns for extensive coverage of electors included in the existing roll are launched The campaign is taken up using a targeted approach. Parts of electoral roll of a constituency representing groups of small villages or parts representing the same village in case of large village, or localities in urban areas are clubbed together for the purposes of this analysis. Locations are identified where the residual electors can be photographed—called Designated Photography Locations—in such a manner that a team of persons is able to cover them in a specified period of time This campaign mode is continued till the threshold level of nearly 85% of the total electors is covered In the second phase, those of the States, who attain the threshold target of 85% will go into the Maintenance Mode, whereby permanent Designated Photography Location centers are provided at the district/sub-divisional headquarters. The electors who have either been left out for any reason or those electors who are added to the roll later on are required to go to these centers to get their cards prepared. It is the endeavour of the Commission to achieve the target of issuing the Elector's Photo Identity Cards to all the electors enrolled in the electoral roll with respect to 1.1.2005 as qualifying date by the end of year 2005

(b) The Election Commission has informed that out of 670,097,172 electors present in the electoral roll with respect to 1 1.2004 as the qualifying date, 205,583,654 electors are without Elector's Photo Identity Cards